

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01188 200854Z
ACTION NEA-02

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-----200928 117542 /10

O R 200842Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1861
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1188

USIAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: SECRETARY VANCE'S MIDEAST VISIT

1. CITING NEWS AGENCY REPORTS DAMASCUS MEDIA GIVE
FRONT PAGE PROMINENCE TO SECRETARY'S TALKS IN AMMAN
AND RIYADH. ATTENTION DRAWN TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF KING
HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN APRIL.

2. PAGE THREE EDITORIAL IN THAWRA BY COLUMNIST
SUHEIL ZEIDAN ENTITLED "RECOGNIZING THE ESSENCE
OF THE PROBLEM WILL PAVE THE WAY TO ITS SOLUTION,"
EMPHASIZES CONTINUATION OF BROAD OUTLINES U.S. POLICY
IN THE AREA. ZEIDAN STATES THAT, ALTHOUGH THE CARTER
ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT MADE A DEFINITE STAND REGARDING
PALESTINIAN QUESTION, THE PRESENT SITUATION GIVES CER-
TAIN CLUES. "DESPITE THE FAILURE OF KISSINGER POLICY IN
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FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, CAUSED BY
HIS REFUSING TO DEAL WITH THE ESSENCE OF THE CRISIS, WE
READ IN THE U.S. PRESS THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS
NOT CHANGED THIS POLICY...THE AMERICAN VIEWS ON THE
PROBLEM REMAIN AT THE LEVEL OF MUTUAL INTERESTS, AND
HAS NOT REACHED THE LEVEL OF RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHTS
OF PALESTINIANS AND THE LEGITIMATE ARAB REQUEST FOR

TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED LANDS."

3. FEBRUARY 19 RADIO COMMENTARY (1800 LOCAL) GAVE
"MESSAGE TO VANCE." QUOTE. YOU ARE A NEW MINISTER,
CARRYING WITH YOU THE SEEDS OF PEACE, AND YOU WILL REAP
WHAT YOU SOW. IF THE SEEDS ARE BENEFICIAL OUR
RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. WILL BE POSITIVE AND FRIENDLY.
OTHERWISE, THERE WILL BE A PARTING OF THE WAYS. WHEN
CYRUS VANCE VISITS THE MIDDLE EAST THERE IS NO DOUBT
THAT HIS EYES WILL SEE THE TRUTH. IF HIS EYES ARE
BLIND TO TRUTH AND REALITY THAT WILL MEAN THAT ISRAELI
PRESSURE HAS FORCED HIM TO DIVERGE FROM THE RIGHT ROAD.
BETWEEN THE U.S. AND SYRIA THERE IS ONLY THE ISSUE OF
RIGHT AND JUSTICE; AND SYRIA THERE IS ONLY THE ISSUE OF
RIGHT AND JUSTICE; AND IF THE U.S. ACCEPTS RIGHT AND
JUSTICE WE WILL BE HONEST FRIENDS. BUT IF THE U.S.
REJECTS THIS THERE WILL BE BETWEEN US ETERNAL SEPA-
RATION. UNQUOTE.
KEITH

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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